

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, March 13, 2011

Let us bring the needs of the church, the world, and all in need, to God's loving care, saying, "Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us when we pray to you in his name. Confident in your love and mercy we offer our prayer.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness, break down barriers that divide, that, united in your truth and love, the church may confess your name, share one baptism, sit together at one table, and serve you in common ministry.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide the rulers of the nations. Move them to set aside their fear, greed and vain ambition, and bow to your sovereign rule. Inspire them to strive for peace and justice, that all your children may dwell secure, free of violence, war, and injustice.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering, and give us the will so to order our own lives that all may have their rightful share of food, care, and shelter, and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship. Fill our hearts with your self-giving love, that our voices may speak your praise and our lives conform to the image of your Son. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments, that we may faithfully minister in your name, and witness to your love and grace in all the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain those among us who need your healing touch. Make the sick whole [especially N., N.] Uphold all who suffer in body or mind, not only those we know and love but also those known only to you, that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember before you those saints who bore witness to the light. Grant that we may persevere in the faith to which we have been called and at the end behold your glory.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all humanity, we offer special prayers for the people of Japan and those around the world who are anxious for loved ones caught in the midst of the turmoil. Keep us from calling disaster your justice and teach us in calamity to trust your mercy which never ends, and your power that in Jesus Christ stilled storms, raised the dead, and put down the powers of darkness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **“Our Father, . . . .”**